## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Jens NIELSEN et al.	) Art Unit: ) )
IA No.: PCT/DK99/00397 IA Filed: 12 July 1999	) ) ) Washington, D.C. )
U.S. App. No.: (Not Yet Assigned)  National Filing Date:	) ) ) January 10, 2001 )
(Not Yet Received)  For: METABOLICALLY ENGINEERED	) ) Docket No.:NIELSEN 4

## SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Frior to examination upon the merits, kindly amend as follows:

Delete claim 1, and insert the following claims:

- --73. Recombinant microbial cell comprising
  - a first enzyme activity controlling assimilation of a nitrogen nutrient source,

wherein the first enzyme activity is encoded by a first nucleic acid operable linked to an expression signal not natively associated with the first nucleic acid, and

wherein the expression of the first enzyme attivity is increased as compared to the expression of the first enzyme activity when